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DRAFTED BY AMB. MARSHALL GREEN:GJG

APPROVED BY D:RSINGERSOLL

S/P - HARRY BLANEY

S/S - MR. MOFFAT

NSC STAFF - HAROLD HORAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 297241

INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SPOP

SUBJECT: IMPLICATIONS OF WORLDWIDE POPULATION GROWTH FOR
UNITED STATES SECURITY AND OVERSEAS INTERESTS

FOR AMBASSADOR

1. ON NOVEMBER 26, 1975 THE PRESIDENT ASSIGNED
RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEFINITION, DEVELOPMENT, AND COORDINATION
OF IMPLEMENTATION OF U.S. POLICY IN THE POPULATION FIELD
TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NSC UNDER
SECRETARIES COMMITTEE (DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL). HE,
IN TURN, HAS DESIGNATED AMBASSADOR MARSHALL GREEN TO FORM
AND SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF AN INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON
POPULATION POLICY, AND TO UNDERTAKE ACTIONS REQUIRED TO
IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY, WHICH IS BASED ON A RECENTLY
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APPROVED NSC STUDY.

2. THE PRESIDENT ATTACHES THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP IN COMBATING POPULATION GROWTH, TO IMPLEMENTING THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION ADOPTED AT THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE IN AUGUST 1974, AND TO ADVANCING UNITED STATES SECURITY AND OVERSEAS INTERESTS. HE IS CONCERNED THAT:

A. LEADERS BE ENCOURAGED TO DEVELOP AND SUPPORT THEIR OWN NATIONAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS;

B. EMPHASIS BE GIVEN TO FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND THE ENLISTMENT OF ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER DEVELOPED AND NEWLY RICH COUNTRIES FOR BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL PROGRAMS;

C. THE UNITED STATES WORK CLOSELY WITH OTHERS, NOT IMPOSE VIEWS, BUT STRESS THE LINKAGE BETWEEN REDUCED POPULATION GROWTH AND RESULTANT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GAINS FOR THE POOREST NATIONS;

D. IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED STATES WORLDWIDE POPULATION STRATEGY BE CAREFULLY COORDINATED, AID PROGRAMS IMPACT UPON THOSE COUNTRIES CONTRIBUTING THE LARGEST GROWTH IN POPULATION, AND THAT THE MIX OF UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE STRATEGY AND ITS MOST EFFICIENT APPLICATION BE FURTHER EXAMINED;

E. PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO A REVIEW OF AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROJECTED FUNDING LEVELS IN THE POPULATION ASSISTANCE AND FAMILY PLANNING FIELD FOR THE PERIOD AFTER FY 1976;

F. RECOGNITION BE GIVEN TO THE BASIC DIGNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND HIS OR HER RIGHT TO CHOOSE FREELY FAMILY GOALS AND FAMILY PLANNING ALTERNATIVES;

G. WITHOUT INTERFERENCE IN NATIONAL POLICIES, WE SUPPORT AS DESIRABLE A GENERAL GOAL OF ACHIEVING GLOBAL REPLACEMENT LEVELS OF FERTILITY BY THE YEAR 2000.

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3. FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE FOR OUR CURRENT POPULATION POLICY BASED ON THE ABOVE APPROVED NSC STUDY:

A. THE STUDY REVIEWED THE WORLD POPULATION SITUATION AND ITS EFFECT ON FOOD, DEVELOPMENT, RESOURCES, AND INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POLITICAL STABILITY. IT NOTED DANGEROUS UPWARD TRENDS IN WORLD POPULATION GROWTH RATES, ESPECIALLY

IN THE LARGEST AND POOREST COUNTRIES AND THEIR DISASTROUS IMPACT UPON PER CAPITA INCOME GROWTH LEVELS AND THE CHANCES OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PROGRESS AND STABILITY.

B. THE WORLD'S POPULATION, NOW ABOUT 4 BILLION, INCREASES AT AN AVERAGE GROWTH OF ABOUT 1.9 PERCENT PER YEAR. THE U.N. MEDIUM PROJECTION INDICATES 6.4 BILLION PEOPLE BY THE YEAR 2000. THE GREATEST RATES OF GROWTH ARE IN THE

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF ASIA, AFRICA, AND LATIN AMERICA. THIS RAPID POPULATION GROWTH IS A HEAVY BURDEN ON THE HEALTH, WELFARE, AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF INDIVIDUAL FAMILIES AND ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRIES. IN MOST COUNTRIES IT ABSORBS BETWEEN HALF AND ALL OF THEIR ECONOMIC GROWTH.

C. THIRTY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE PRC, INDIA, THE PHILIPPINES, BANGLADESH, PAKISTAN, AND INDONESIA, WITH ABOUT 75-80 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL LDC POPULATION, ALREADY HAVE OFFICIAL POPULATION GROWTH LIMITATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS. ON THE WHOLE, HOWEVER, MOST OF THEIR PROGRAMS ARE NEW AND REACH ONLY A SMALL PART OF THEIR PEOPLE. THEY MUST BE EXPANDED.

D. THERE ARE SEVERE PROJECTIONS OF IMBALANCE BETWEEN POPULATION GROWTH AND FOOD PRODUCTION.

E. A GLOBAL REPLACEMENT LEVEL OF FERTILITY (A TWO-CHILD FAMILY ON THE AVERAGE) BY THE YEAR 2000 WOULD HOLD DEVELOPING COUNTRY POPULATIONS 500 MILLION BELOW THE U.N. MEDIUM PROJECTION BY 2000. SUCH A 500-MILLION SMALLER POPULATION IN THE YEAR 2000 WOULD REDUCE DEVELOPING COUNTRY FOOD IMPORT REQUIREMENTS BY ROUGHLY 100 MILLION

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TONS, ENABLING THEM TO APPROXIMATE OVERALL SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD. THE ASIAN COUNTRIES MEETING IN A POST-BUCHAREST CONFERENCE TO ADOPT THE WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION TO THEIR REGION AGREED TO SET THIS GOAL FOR THEMSELVES. OTHER REGIONS HAVE NOT YET DONE SO.

F. U.S. SHOULD ENCOURAGE HEIGHTENED INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN AND COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES TO INTEGRATED DELIVERY OF LOW-COST HEALTH CARE (INCLUDING NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION) AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES, ESPECIALLY TO NEGLECTED POPULATIONS.

G. A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE SHOULD FOCUS ON GIVING PRIORITY TO 13 KEY COUNTRIES WHICH CONTRIBUTE ALMOST HALF OF THE PRESENT

POPULATION GROWTH: INDIA, BANGLADESH, PAKISTAN, THAILAND, INDONESIA, THE PHILIPPINES, TURKEY, EGYPT, ETHIOPIA, NIGERIA, COLOMBIA, BRAZIL, AND MEXICO.

5. IN COMPLYING WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE, WE WILL BE LOOKING TO THE EMBASSIES, ESPECIALLY THE AMBASSADORS AND THEIR PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, TO KEEP THE DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO POPULATION ISSUES, TOGETHER WITH THEIR OWN ASSESSMENTS AND PROPOSALS AS TO

WHAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CAN DO TO BE OF MOST EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE IN MOVING POPULATION PROGRAMS FORWARD IN THE HOST COUNTRY, BEARING IN MIND NATIONAL SENSITIVITIES, NEEDS, AND CIRCUMSTANCES. THERE IS A COMPELLING NEED FOR MORE EFFECTIVE ACTION, WORLDWIDE, WITH REGARD TO THIS KEY CENTRAL ISSUE.

6. THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS FOR YOUR BACKGROUND INFORMATION ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS. DIRECTIVES FOR ANY SUCH DISCUSSIONS WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE MESSAGES. INGERSOLL

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